

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00395 081138Z

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 MC-02 ISO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 /091 W

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P R 080900Z MAR 76

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5258

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADRESSEES)

.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CB SW

SUBJECT: DIPLOMAT'S VISIT TO CAMBODIA: SIEM REAP

REF: STATE 49239, STATE 50159, STATE 54860

1. WE HAVE OBTAINED ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS FROM TORONTO
GLOBE AND MAIL'S ROSS MUNRO COPY OF HIS SEVERAL REPORTS
BASED ON TAPERECORDED INTERVIEW WITH SWEDISH AMBASSADOR
TO PEKING KAJ BJORK, ONE OF SEVERAL PEKING-BASED DIPLO-
MATS JUST RETURNED FROM VISIT TO CAMBODIA. BJORK
HAS REPUTATION AS SOLID OBSERVER AND MUNRO IS
UNUSUALLY ABLE AND CAREFUL JOURNALIST SINCE US
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PRESS MAY NOT CARRY FULL TEXTS, WE TRANSMIT THEM IN

THIS AND SUBSEQUENT MESSAGES BECAUSE OF THE OBVIOUS
VALUE.

2. WE WILL ALSO, PER DEPTELS, FOLLOW UP DIRECTLY
BUT IN LOW KEY WITH SOME OF DIPLOMATS WHO MADE TRIP.

3. FOLLOWING IS MUNRO'S REPORT OF BJORK'S COMMENTS
ON ALLEGED BOMBING OF SIEM REAP (UNNECESSARY WORDS
OMITTED):

4. BEGIN TEXT. CAMBODIAN OFFICIALS LAST WEEK SHOWED
FOREIGN DIPLOMATS A SCENE OF DESTRUCTION IN THE TOWN
OF SIEM REAP WHICH THEY CHARGED WAS CAUSED BY BOMBS
DROPPED BY US PLANES. BJORK SAID HE SAW A CRATER AND
VARIOUS OTHER SIGNS OF DESTRUCTION IN THE TOWN AND
WAS TOLD THAT 15 PERSONS DIED IN THE BOMBING. THE
RESIDENTS REPORTED FINDING FOREIGN PLANES BUT COULDN'T
MAKE OUT THE MARKINGS, BJORK SAID. HOWEVER, AFTER
INVESTIGATION, "THEY HAD COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT
THE ONLY ONES WHO COULD HAVE DONE THIS WERE THE
'AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS'".

5. ASKED WHETHER THE DESTRUCTION COULD HAVE BEEN
CAUSED BY EXPLOSION OF A MUNITIONS DUMP OR BY SIMILAR
ACCIDENT, BJORK SAID HE PREFERRED NOT TO MAKE ANY
FURTHER COMMENTS. HE SAID CAMBODIA STILL PORTRAYS THE
UNITED STATES AS A THREAT: "THERE IS A LOT OF TALK
ABOUT AMERICAN IMPERIALISM...BARBAROUS, FEROCIOUS
...ALL SORTS OF EPITHETS." END TEXT.
THAYER

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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